MONTEREY NEWS

January 2010
VOLUME XL · Number 1

The Town

by Sue Protheroe

Our Lakes

Zebra mussels were first discovered in Laurel Lake in Lee in July, the first documented infestation of a body of water in Massachusetts. They have since been found in Laurel Brook and the Housatonic River as far south as Stockbridge. While there is no evidence of zebra mussels in Lake Buel, it remains highly susceptible. Lake Garfield is not as hospitable to the mussels.

Concerns over mussels prompted closing of the public boat ramp at Lake Buel in Monterey this fall. A proposal for a drawdown of Laurel Lake was withdrawn until next year, pending a series of studies of the mussel infestation and of other affected species. The study will cost $40,000, for which the Laurel Lake Preservation Association has petitioned the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

In anticipation of the spring, residents are reminded that any watercraft that has been in other lakes must be cleaned with hot soapy water before entering Lake Buel or Lake Garfield. This includes kayaks and rowboats. No procedure is in place at this time for the general public to moor boats in Lake Buel.

Self-monitoring remains an important factor in trying to protect Monterey's lakes, especially in the absence of timely decisive action by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Although a boat wash was available in Stockbridge last season, and some sporadic monitoring was done at area boat ramps, no plans have been made

Evelyn Vallianos, Ruth Green, Joe Baker, and Gerry Shapiro clearing brush next to the Community Garden site at the Community Center, with the Wilson-McLaughlin House in the background. (Photo Bonner McAllester)

for the coming season. In short, spring is not far away. Please be vigilant in trying to protect our lakes!

The Lake Buel Watershed Committee and the Lake Buel Preservation and Restoration Committee approved a hydraulic analysis of the Lake Buel watershed, providing a better model to refer to when deciding how to improve flood control.

Police Matters

Police Chief Gareth Backhaus reported to the Select Board about recent Police Department activity:

- Two calls of loose cows, Main Road.
- False alarms, Main Road and Beartown Mt. Road.
- A leaf blower was stolen on Pixley Road while its owner had gone back to the house for something.
- Stolen name sign, Main Road.
- Trees on wires, Hupi Road, Mt. Hunger Road, Cronk Road.
- Power line down, Wellman Road.
- Request for lifting assistance.
- Deer hit on Corashire Road; officer needed to put it down,
- Abandoned 911 call, Mt. Hunger Road.
- Medical call, Art School Road.
- Found owner of some property left on Blue Hill Road.
- Complaint of assault and battery; arrest made, person surrendered voluntarily.
- Hunter lost in swamp, referred to Fire Department.

A party in a past domestic issue came in to thank the Police Department for their support.

The emergency phone has been installed outside of Town Hall. When you lift the receiver it dials the Monterey Police Department. If an officer is not in Town Hall, the call will go to Police dispatch.

Financial Matters

Town Accountant Barbara Gauthier reported that the state-owned-land money (PILOT) was cut from $132,477 to $80,157—a reduction of $52,320. Select Board member Jon Sylbert had read in the *Beacon* that the legislature had stalled these cuts, but that the governor still had the power to veto some or all of that decision.

The Select Board conducted interviews with Steve Pullen, Michael Zanin, Amy Lane, and Karen Joyner regarding the position of Town Accountant.

Barbara Gauthier also attended all interviews. The Board confirmed that the job will require at least sixteen hours a week, with a minimum of six of these hours being at Town Hall during normal hours. Barbara said that her last day will be April 26 and that the training of the new person will happen before that.

Highways and Byways

The Select Board received a letter from the Tyringham Select Board asking that Monterey fill the holes on the Monterey side of Tyringham Road. The Board said that there aren't any homes along that section on the Monterey side and will forward the letter to Director of Operations Maynard Forbes.

Forbes asked the Board's opinion on winter "No Parking" regulations and on what to do about private plows that are pushing driveway snow onto the main roads.

The salt shed was discussed again. We still have the authorization to borrow, and Forbes feels we have exhausted the possibility of getting state aid. He would like to put the shed construction out to bid in March so that the project can begin in fiscal year 2011. Jon Sylbert said that because of the school budget, the money for the shed would have to be a debt exclusion. The Select Board will mention this to the Finance Committee.

Test borings have begun on Route 23 at the request of the Massachusetts. Highway Department to see how much blacktop remains. The town has received a

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letter from the commonwealth saying that Monterey is eligible for 2.8 million dollars for the repair of Route 23. The Select Board was unclear about the difference between their request of 1.9 million and the state's estimate of 2.8 million. However, the money has not yet been approved.

Fifty recycling bins have been made available to the public at the Monterey Town Hall.

The Highway Department will try to complete the work on Brace Road next summer (they were delayed by the ice storm).

Cell Phone Towers & Internet Access

A letter to the Select Board from Stanley Stanisz of Housatonic was read about land that Stanisz would like to sell for a cell phone tower. Because the land is not in Monterey, the letter will be forwarded to Monica Webb, one of Monterey's representatives on the Southern Berkshire Technology Committee.

Tim O'Donell from Independent Towers, LLC, an independent company, came to a Select Board meeting to discuss providing a survey of likely spots to locate cell towers. His company has done work in Leverett and Shutesbury. O'Donell said he recognized the special problems in Monterey such as low population and traffic count, strict permitting, and highly sensitive areas.

The Board agreed to provide him with maps so that he can make a later presentation about ways to provide cell towers in Monterey.

Barbara Salamon attended this meeting to voice her strong support for cell phone and high speed Internet for the underserved Monterey area. She feels that the residents are at a disadvantage because they have no access to these services.

The Monterey Fire Department was called to the Egremont Inn fire on the second alarm and arrived at about 6 a.m., Friday December 11, 2009. Temperature was 12 degrees. Monterey firefighters manned two hoselines on an exterior attack, and provided two safety officers and a work pool officer. The roof collapsed at about 6:17 a.m., and water was poured on the structure most all of the day. The above picture shows Lt. Pat Sheridan and Capt. Shawn Tryon manning a master stream on the front side of the inn shortly after the roof collapsed. The Tyringham Fire Department provided coverage for Monterey while we were out of town. (Photo Maynard Forbes)

Transfer Station

Seldon and Susan Whitaker, part-time residents on Beartown Mountain Road, came to a Select Board to talk about the temporary transfer station sticker policy. They are no longer able to drive to Monterey, but fly and rent a car, so they cannot give a license plate number for the transfer sticker. Mr. Whitaker suggested

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that the town go back to yearly stickers that can be verified by drivers' licenses instead of license plates.

Director of Operations Maynard Forbes said that while he approved in the Whitakers' special circumstances, he did not want to go back to the old annual stickers because people were abusing them. He pointed out that Monterey has the most economical transfer station in southern Berkshire County and that we are the only one not to charge for bulky waste.

The Board and Forbes agreed to amend the Whitakers' transfer station sticker so that they could use a license instead of a license plate number for the rest of the year.

Miscellaneous

The Select Board approved and signed the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant application that is being submitted by the Southern Berkshire Regional School District.

Select Board Chair Scott Jenssen said that Dean Amidon had suggested that the Select Board only meet twice a month during the winter months. The Board, while thankful for his concern, did not agree.

After determining that no legal issue is involved with all three assessors sitting on the Board of Appeals, a motion was made and approved to appoint Stanley Ross as the alternate on the ZBA to fulfill the remaining term vacated by Kathleen Wasiuk, which expires on June 30, 2010.

Alan Salamon from the Planning Board came in to correct an error in the Select Board minutes of November 3, 2009, and also in the *Monterey News*, which says, "The Planning Board feels that a master plan isn't really necessary …" Salamon said that the adoption of a master plan is the best course of action for the town, but if the development of such a plan involves expenditures not available, the lack of such a plan would not currently adversely affect the planning needs of the town.

Youth Hockey at Monterey Ice Rink

A new activity at the Monterey ice rink will begin on Saturday, January 2. Every Saturday morning from 8–10 a.m. there will be youth hockey for children ages 8–14. Michael Wolski will be coaching and the focus will be on skating skills first and then adding in hockey skills. We will use a soft puck; hockey equipment can be worn, but is not necessary, except for a helmet and a face shield (wire or clear), hockey stick, and warm gloves. Every Saturday will end in a game.

Everyone is asked to dress warmly and remember to bring a bottle of water. Also, if any people have used hockey equipment they could donate to the rink, it would be greatly appreciated.

Important!!! This is not a drop-off activity. Any child wishing to leave the rink for any reason will not be supervised, so parents need to stay.

Please note: Hockey is a sport where injuries can happen, and that the Town of Monterey and the facilitator are not responsible for injuries.

— Monterey Park Commission

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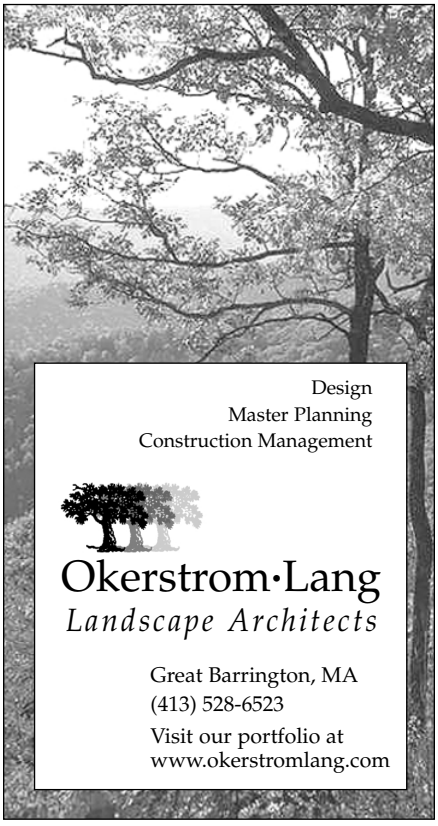

Sunday morning adult pickup hockey has been a Monterey tradition for almost 20 years. Games start Sunday, January 3, from 9-11 a.m. All levels are welcome for the noncontact, easygoing, soft puck, informal games.

Monterey Ice Rink Open

The Monterey ice skating rink off Route 23 behind the fire station opened December 23, the earliest in years thanks to cold temperatures and the around-the-clock efforts of ice-making volunteers. A person is needed to help with ice resurfacing on Saturday nights. If you are free, contact Mark Makuc at mjjminmonterey@yahoo.com.

The rink is open weekdays from 7 a.m.–7 p.m. for general skating. Adult hockey hours are 7–9 p.m. weeknights except Thursdays (general skating). Only skate when the ice is completely frozen. Sometimes the rink is closed because of mild weather or due to recent resurfacing. Please use good judgment and stay off the ice if it is at all wet or soft so that the surface isn't ruined for others.

On Saturday mornings, a youth hockey program is being developed my Michael Wolski, an accomplished skater and youth hockey instructor. Informal, noncontact, pickup games are planned for boys and girls ages 8–12. If you are interested in youth hockey activities, contact Michael at michaelwolskiart@gmail.com.

The Monterey rink has a skate loan and exchange system. Hockey and figure skates in all sizes are needed. If you have any idle skates, please donate them anytime inside the rink.

If you have any questions or comments about the rink, contact Valerie Zantay of the Monterey Park Commission at vzantay@berkshireschool.org.

Traditional Sunday morning Monterey adult pickup hockey starts Sunday, January 3, from 9–11am. The informal, pickup games are noncontact and use a soft puck. Helmets are required and pads are recommended. For more information on adult hockey, contact Steve Graves at sgraves8@yahoo.com.

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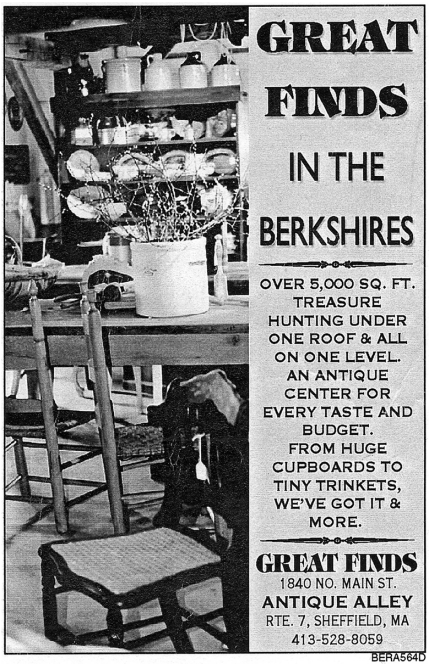
From the Tax Collector

The fiscal year 2010 Real Estate and Personal Property bills for the third quarter have been mailed and are due February 1, 2010. If you do not receive yours, please contact the tax collector's office (413-528-1443 x117). The fourth quarter tax bills will be mailed in late March and are due May 3, 2010. If you wish, you may pay both the February and May amounts at this time.

Please direct all questions regarding personal property tax, assessments and abatement applications to the Board of Assessors, PO Box 488, Monterey, MA 01245, 413-528-1443 x115. Abatement applications must be received in the Assessors' Office by February 1, 2010.

To accommodate taxpayers who want the convenience of paying Monterey real estate and personal property taxes online, an online payment option is now available. To pay your tax, you must have your current bill and checkbook/credit card in hand. Log on to www.montereyma.gov and click on Pay Real Estate Taxes Online. You will need to enter your current bill number and the current bill year (2010). MasterCard and Discover credit cards will be accepted. Please note the credit card company will charge the taxpayer a fee for the service. This fee is not assessed by or paid to the Town of Monterey.

— Mari Enoch, Tax Collector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Brush Burning Rules And Regulations

Burn Season Opens Jan. 15

Each year, the Commonwealth allows some Massachusetts towns, including Monterey, to conduct open burning. It is important to remember that when burning, you are subject to certain requirements and responsibilities issued and enforced by the State Fire Marshal's Office, DEP and your local Fire Department. These guidelines include the following:

- Permits can be obtained from January 15 to April 30.
- You must obtain a permit for open burning from the Monterey Fire Department by calling **528-1734**.
- Residents must call the Fire Department on the day they will be burning; no permits are issued ahead of time. The permit is good for one day only
- Burning hours start at 10 a.m., and all fires must be out by 4 p.m.
- Burning materials will be confined to brush only. **All other materials are prohibited.**
- Burning piles will be kept small and controllable.
- Have a method of extinguishment available.
- Never leave the fire unattended for any reason.
- Permits are issued weather permitting. Burning is not allowed every day, at the discretion of the Fire Chief.
- You can be fined for burning without a permit.
- Don't wait until the end of April; you will be disappointed if you wait till the last minute. April can be dry, and open burning can be prohibited at any time.
- Burning season will not be extended.
- Make sure you call for a permit at 528-1734 and leave your name, the address where you are burning, and a phone number.

— Maynard Forbes, Assistant Chief
Monterey Fire Department

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Banners on Silversmithing at Jan. 20 Community Potluck

An overflow crowd at the December Potluck greeted the representatives from the Monterey Preservation Land Trust. Their presentation included an explanation of the purpose of the Trust and how it works in actual practice, including their most recent conservation restriction, the Ellen Pearson property, which is being purchased by Bettina Schwartz and Mark Furth. Bettina discussed their plans to have a small farming operation there to provide fresh food for their several restaurants in Brooklyn. It was an informative and festive evening, and we are grateful to have volunteers working to preserve Monterey's rural character.

For the January 20th Potluck, we are lucky to have Maureen and Michael Banner, who, since the late 1970s, have resided in Monterey where they have continuously practiced their silversmithing craft. They have won awards, including the Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellowships, in 2009 (finalist), 2003, and 1999, the American Craft Council Achievement Award, and the Boston Society of Arts and Crafts Artists Award. For the Potluck Supper presentation, Michael will bring some of their hand wrought silver and explain the process by which he makes the silver pieces.

The first Monterey Community Potluck Dinner of 2010 will be held January 20 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

— Barbara Dahlman & Kyle Pierce

Library Director Mark Makuc brings the last books in from the Western Region bookmobile on its last visit on December 15. Bookmobile service, which Monterey and other small libraries have long depended on to supplement their collections, has been ended due to drastic state library budget cuts. (Photo Will Marsh)

Monterey Library Notes

Our adult book discussion group has some new members and will next meet Monday, January 4 at 7 p.m., to discuss *After Long Silence: a Memoir* by Helen Fremont. The next book will be *River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey* by Candice Millard. Call the library (528-3795) for details.

Moxie the Reading Dog and Barbara will next visit the library on Saturday, January 16, at 10 a.m. Young readers of any ability are welcome, and remember that Moxie likes pictures as well as listening to beginning readers.

Over the years the library has provided delivery to people unable to come to the library, but of course we had to guess what our patrons would like to read. One of the Friends of the Library (thank you Colleen!) recently volunteered to do some delivery, and it occurred to me that now if you have an Internet connection you can pick your own books and let us know when we call you upon the items arrival that you are unable to make it in. Please don't let a mobility issue stop you from taking advantage of not just our library but all of CWMARS!

Finally, one of our younger Friends of the Library took the time to organize into a list all of our museum passes. She entered the passes and how you can use them to gain entrance to many cultural attractions, as well as Internet links to web sites that tell you about the museums. A big thank you to Ella Carlson. Check out the list at http://www.montereyma.gov/Public_Documents/MontereyMA_About/MontLib, or just go to the Town of Monterey's web page (www.montereyma.gov) and look under Town Government and Departments for the library site. Not all of the attractions are open this time of year, but there are fewer crowds at the ones that are, so check out some passes!

— Mark Makuc, Library Director

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Town Hall News

A limited amount of recycling bins are available at Town Hall; please see Melissa Noe, Inter-Departmental Secretary to get yours.

The Park Commission has a new phone number where you can get information on events and the Monterey Ice Rink: 528-1443 x248.

The Monterey Planning Board still has one vacant seat. Meetings are the second and fourth Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Interested parties must be registered voters of Monterey. The term will run until the town election in May 2010. Any interested parties should send a letter of interest to both the Monterey Planning Board and the Monterey Select Board at P.O. Box 308 Monterey, MA 01245.

The following committees appointed by the Select Board have openings:

- Agricultural Commission: 2 two-yr seats
- Council on Aging:1 three-yr seat
- Historical Commission:1 three-yr seat
- Town Report Committee:1 three-yr seat

Please send letters of interest to the Monterey Select Board at P.O. Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245.

— Melissa Noe,
Inetr-Departmental Secretary

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From the Meetinghouse . . .

This winter, I'll be taking a three-month sabbatical from my pastoral work in Monterey, on leave beginning January 1 and returning to the pulpit at the church on March 28, which is Palm Sunday.

Sabbaticals are based on the biblical idea of allowing a field to lie fallow for a year after seven years of planting and harvesting. The convention is for pastors to take three months in their eighth year of service at a particular congregation. This being my eighth year, the parish council decided to give me this gift, which I am so grateful to receive.

It should go without saying that life for the congregation will continue as normal. Sunday worship will be at 10 a.m. as always. The Reverend Janet McKinstry, who lives in Great Barrington and is the pastor of the Union Church in Tyringham, will officiate. An artist, puppet-maker, and performer, she will bring many gifts to the pulpit that I don't share, so I imagine this will be a fruitful time for the church. Pastoral emergencies will continue to be of concern to us, and any of you should feel welcome to be in touch with Steve or Sally Pullen (at 528-9243), who will know how to get in touch with me. To reserve a space in the church for community use, please continue to contact Mary Kate Jordan (528-1011).

As for my plan, I will spend these three months reading pertinent books and journals and writing for publication. I was a creative writing major in college, and though my strength isn't in fiction writing as I'd originally hoped, I am beginning to suspect there's a conversation taking place out there that I'd like to join. Pastors and preachers are often writers as well, and a good number of them have found prominent places on my bookshelf and on many others'. Frederick Buechner, Martin Copenhaver, Lillian Daniel, Peter Gomes, Eugene Peterson, William Sloane Coffin, Barbara Brown Taylor—these are all preachers whose sermons are worth reading as well as hearing or pastors who love their work and write well of it. They're an inspiration to me, not only because I too love my work but because more and more I feel called to write about it and from it.

Given all this, what I am most looking forward to in these three months is having three months—stepping out of the Sunday-to-Sunday framing of time and into time that feels more like a pasture or an open field. Especially in such a society as ours, time to spend however you feel called to spend it is something of immeasurable worth. If time is money, I've just been given a million dollars. Please know I won't spend it in a cheap way. Meanwhile, I wish all you readers of the *Monterey News* a joyful beginning to 2010. I'll see you in early spring.

— Elizabeth Goodman
ॐ

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Free Film Saturday, Jan. 16: *The Visitor*

The next in our series of free films will be *The Visitor*, written and directed by Thomas McCarthy (who also made *The Station Agent*). This is the moving story of a university professor who is emotionally shut down since the death of his wife. He never smiles, has no interest in his teaching nor compassion for his students. He takes a trip to his Manhattan apartment and finds it inhabited by squatters Tarek and Zainab, both illegal immigrants who are talented, charming, and in constant danger of deportation.

The professor, Walter Vale (Richard Jenkins), begins to thaw out as he gets to know his unexpected tenants. Can't give away what happens next.

The subject is human compassion and the unhappy lot of undocumented immigrants in post-9/11 America. This film won nine awards and was nominated for eleven others. It was released in 2008 and is one and three-quarter hours long.

All are welcome to come see it at the Monterey Meetinghouse, downstairs, January 16, at 7:00 p.m. For more information: 528-9385 (Bonner McAllester).

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Lake Garfield winter beach at the Freundlich's Mouse House.

A Thanksgiving Gift

Thanksgiving Day on Lake Garfield was a beautiful and meaningful day for the Freundlich family. First of all, it was the first Thanksgiving that was actually celebrated by two generations of Freundlichs at their Lake Garfield home known as the Somers' "Mouse House." The Freundlich family has owned the property since the 1950s, but never once have they traveled to Lake Garfield in Monterey for Thanksgiving. The younger generation of Freundlichs suggested we do so.

Thanksgiving proved to be an extraordinary day. Since the water had receded (and there is now beach at the waterfront), I suggested to the granddaughters (Talia and Taylor) that they look for their Aunt Margey's wedding band, which was lost four summers ago in Lake Garfield. As our daughter-in-law Kristin was raking, she spotted a circular small metal shining object in the sand and rock. Upon closer examination, she found it to be our daughter's wedding band—which had the wedding date inscribed in the inner side. When we heard about it, I suggested to the family that we call Aunt Margey in Bend, Oregon, and tell her of our found treasure.

Needless to say, the sun came out and it was a wonderful experience that the entire Freundlich family near and far will remember.

— Mickey/Mike Freundlich

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Geometric Design

As a designer and builder of houses and barns, geometric design is a favorite topic of mine and seems to prompt many questions from clients. I believe that we're in a bit of a dark time in terms of architecture, compared to the last couple of thousand years prior to 1900. I will propose one major reason for this situation. Prior to the early 1900s, there were few sources for manufactured building materials—sheetrock, plywood, modular windows and doors, cabinets, etc. Before modular building components entered the scene, architectural designers had fewer perceived constrictions on the design process. The key components to the process were: 1) practical needs for space, 2) shelter, and 3) geometry.

Geometry was the basic organizing principal: organizing simple shapes into patterns that worked in a practical sense and brought harmony to the vision of the observer. This had been the guiding principal in creating the best architecture for thousands of years. Unfortunately, this started to unravel with the advent of modular components; ceilings should be 8' high to accommodate sheetrock, doors need to be 6'-8" or 7', trim should be $3^1/_2$" wide or $5^1/_2$" wide because that's the size that it comes. The past one hundred years have produced so many predetermined material and component sizes, and standardized construction techniques, that it's become a rare treat to see a house that's less than one hundred years old and elegantly proportioned and detailed.

If you define the word "geometric" literally you get geo = earth and metric = measure. Thus, geometry is measuring the shapes and forms that comprise our planet. Since humans have been experiencing the shapes and forms that comprise the natural world for arguably millions of years, these shapes and forms have been internalized in our DNA. Therefore, we appreciate these natural forms, shapes, and organizing principals as they show up in our built environment. To demonstrate this, let's analyze a structure that was undoubtedly designed with these principals in mind.

The local Catholic church, Our Lady of the Hills, has a strikingly simple and elegant facade. It's obvious when you look at it that it was designed with some organizing principles in mind, and looking at it tends to produce a sense of relaxation in most people, unless the fact that it's a church is disquieting to them. Let's see if we can find the underlying geometric system, starting with the overall shape of the gable end.

This seems pretty simple. The gable end is comprised of four identical rectangles, bisected diagonally to define the roof pitch. The next most obvious design feature is the window and door layout. Let's see if we can figure out how the designer arrived at that.

This is a very common shape in traditional design, especially in churches and cathedrals. The star pentagram is constructed upon the proportions called the "golden section," derived from the "divine proportion," which we'll look at shortly. As you can see, the points of the pentagram touch the tops of all of the windows and the bottom intersecting lines of the pentagram meet in the middle of the doorway. This shape being so common in Christian architecture would suggest

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to me that the Earth-based religions and belief systems that preceded Christianity were, in fact, an important foundational element to modern religions.

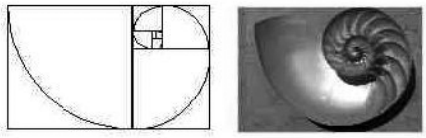
We can further see a slightly larger star pentagram that also describes the window and door layout. Let's start to analyze some of the sizes and proportions of the distinct elements of the facade.

Next we see that the lower windows are the same size as each door. You might also notice that the entire width of the gable end is equal to the width of the window or door times 10. If you laid 10 doors next to each other, you'd describe the width of the building. The rectangle that describes the window and door size also describes the fan over the door and the elevation of the steps.

We can also that see the upper window and doors' windows have an obvious proportional relationship.

Next we will look at the ubiquitous golden section, which is derived from the divine proportion. The various shapes that emerge from this proportion show up in the design of humans, animals, plants, geology, Stonehenge, the pyramids, and much of what occurs around us. In the mid 1800s, a psychologist named Gustav Fechner did an extensive study to determine the proportions in rectangles that were most pleasing to humans; the golden rectangle won hands down.

DIVINE PROPORTION = 1 TO 1.61803



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GOLDEN SECTION RECTANGLE AND SPIRAL

On the left is a series of nesting golden rectangles, with a golden spiral described in the rectangles. To the right is a chambered nautilus shell, which reflects an almost perfect golden spiral.

Our next subject of analysis is a beautifully simple little house in my hometown, Monterey. I have heard many people comment on its elegance and it will be interesting to explore some reasons that it is so attractive. To get us started, since we looked at the golden section, let's see if it shows up in the overall proportion.

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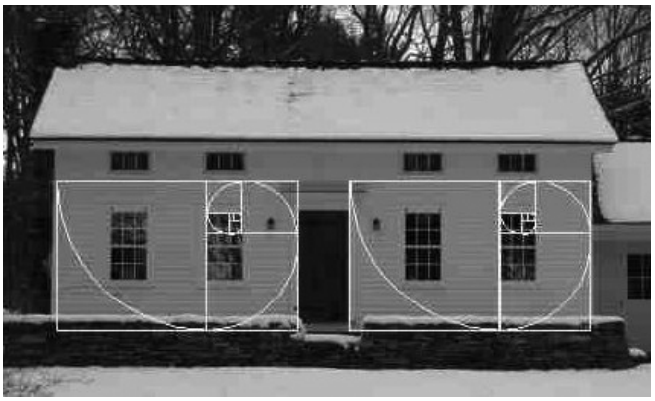

It looks like we "struck gold" on that idea. The main facade of the house, vertically from the water table to the architrave, and horizontally from the corner to the door, is a perfect golden rectangle. If you follow the spiral in the rectangle on the right side, you'll notice that even the windows and panes are described by the main golden section. Lets look for more golden section relationships.

In the photo below, we see that the window sizes, which are a perfect golden rectangle, are repeated in the area above the door pediment, the stone wall height, and when doubled describe the area from the bottom of the stone wall to the top of the door. Eleven window widths describe the length of the entire side of the house. Each windowpane is also a golden rectangle.

This photo demonstrates more of the elegant symmetry of the façade, as the window and door areas are described by three identical squares.

My purpose in writing about geometry in this context is to do my small part in raising expectations in the area of design. The design can be architecture, graphics, or anything conceived of by humans. Let's hold ourselves, and anyone working with us, to the same standard of excellence that the designers of these buildings held themselves to. Let's not compromise to allow room for a larger flat screen TV, jacuzzi, or favorite couch. A crucial element in "green" construction is longevity and durability. If we build houses that are durable enough to last 50 or 100+ years, they have to be designed in a "timeless" enough fashion that someone will want to keep the basic structure and appointments of the building intact after fads and trends have changed. Unfortunately, beautiful and timeless design is too rare in the landscape of new construction (with some very nice exceptions). If you google "geometric design" or "sacred geometry," you'll find plenty of interesting reading. Earth-based, geometric design isn't limited to traditional or colonial architecture. If you analyze Frank Lloyd Wright's buildings, you see that he followed the same basic process that I've outlined in this article and created geometrically beautiful structures.

— Michael Erkkinen,
Webnash Design-Build

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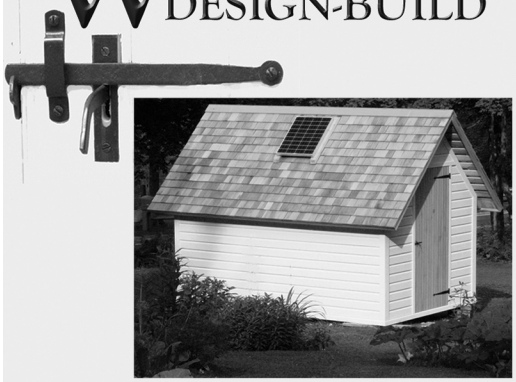

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allowed the sun in the winter
shading us from the southern heat in the summer

her hair was full and sensual
plush green in the summertime
orange red in the fall

she gave up sap for syrup
never faltered in the winds
200 years of graceful rigidity
"state your business, if you wish to pass"

6 families were protected by her
she saw Dylan, Elvis, and Hell's Angels
nodded without judgement
if it was . . . it was
she accepted it all

now she sits in the wood pile
waiting to come alive in the stove
warming our bodies and hearts again
still more warmth she gives

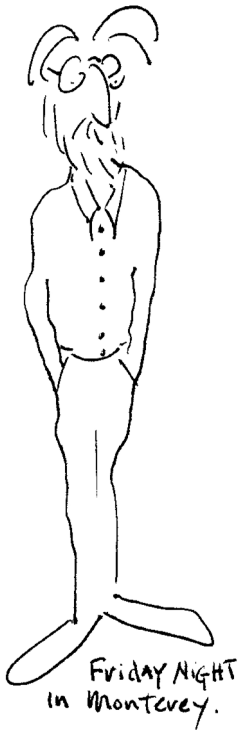
may we meet again, sweetheart
in the warmth of the southern skies
your arms caressing all that is near
may we remember you forever

— Bob Hirsch

Portrait of Great-aunt Hannah

A stillness, a clarity
a light in my chamber
whiffs of lavender, space, and rue
the precise domino effect
of all the ancillary ladies from my childhood
back through New England to the Vestal Virgins
to a constant intact concern
with white woven chaste ribbons
(one of scarlet jaquard!)
a ladder of crimping
buttons of pearl and a demanding gentleness
no, respect!
for anyone's right
even under a shroud of napery
to claim absolutely nothing.

— A. O. Howell



The Cold War
A Veteran's Story

Although I was in the Navy during World War II as a gunner's mate, I had served only a short time when the Japanese surrendered. Going on to college, I then joined the NROTC and upon graduation the Korean War was going on, so I accepted a commission and went back in the Navy for the second time. I was given the choice of being on a submarine, but after an uncomfortable week or two asked to be assigned to a destroyer and was assigned to duty in the Mediterranean in the summer and the Caribbean in the winter. How lucky can you get?

Most of the time we operated in a screen of other destroyers forming a protective circle around a carrier, whose presence in those areas was a show of diplomatic strength. Steaming along near the Black Sea at night, we frequently got a sonar contact of an unidentified submarine passing directly below the carrier, and it was common knowledge that it was the Russians playing war games to show their prowess in being able to get that close without detection. This was as early as 1952 and 1953.

I was a qualified officer of the deck; when the group was underway, it became hazardous when the command came over the radio to turn into the wind so the carrier could launch planes, particularly at night when all you had were radar screens to

keep you on station with the other ships all around. Another destroyer with us, the *USS Hobson*, had plane guard duty in close proximity to the stem of the carrier *Wasp*, in case a pilot needed to be rescued if his engine stalled upon takeoff. The *Hobson*'s officer of the deck turned the wrong way and went under the bow of the carrier, which cut the smaller ship in half, with almost all hands going down. Human error and miscalculations were our worst enemy.

In the Caribbean, we operated out of Guantanamo Bay, and one night about sixty miles southeast of Cuba we got an unidentified sonar contact where there was no record of any of our own subs. We were assigned to investigate and the loud gong of general quarters went over the loudspeaker as we cranked up speed in that direction. One of my battle stations was the fantail (stern) to see that the depth charge detail was in readiness. I reported to the bridge with my headset phone that we were ready and, following the instruction manual, requested permission to arm the depth charges. I then realized I had gone too far and got a negative reply asking me if I wanted to start World War III. Almost immediately however we received a radio message from our phantom contact (which had shut down its engines, diving into deep waters to avoid detection) that it was a USSR vessel and they had a perfect right to be in international waters. We sent their boat number and exact location to our Fleet Commander and went back to our station wondering what they were doing so far from home.

Years later during the Cuban Missile Crisis, after I had served my time, I was amazed to see on the front page of the *New York Times* a picture of my ship, the *USS Vesole*, D.D.R.878, back near the coast of Cuba, cutting across the bow of a Russian cargo ship carrying more missiles to Fidel Castro, who already had some with warheads pointed toward the United States. The Russian ship turned around and went home. President John Kennedy had stared down Nikita Khrushchev, and through courage and resolve had spared us the threat of nuclear war. We were fortunate that there had been no human errors or miscalculations.

— George B. Emmons

This is the second in what the editor hopes will be a continuing series of stories of Monterey veterans' service experiences. Other veterans are encouraged to tell us their stories.

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We Meet at Last: The Otter

"… heaven to me consists in a complete communion with the otter nature."

—Henry David Thoreau,
Journal, Dec. 1840

When can we meet the otter? When enter that complete communion so appreciated and described by Thoreau? For most of us, this happens only in winter when the otter obligingly leaves the book of her travels plainly written for anyone to read.

We do have to get outdoors. The TV nature program will not do, nor will the excellent You-tube or the Field Guide to Mammals with its photos and words. The otter lives outdoors, in nature, and the first gift she gives us, if we are inclined to be receptive, is a reminder that this is our world, too. We grew up here, in evolution, and are still most strongly adapted to a life in the wild. Don't think so? Ask if the world which formed us is made of plastic and steel, credit, and text-message. Ask if our evolution was shaped by rocks and rivers or by microchip and drone warfare. We are babes in the technological age, up the cyber creek without much paddle. When the going gets too weird for us, we do well to go home for the holidays, at least.

Home for humans is wilderness. We may not think so, as we recall the living rooms of our childhood, or our grade schools and early playgroups. If we could hark way back, though, we'd find ourselves outdoors with the rocks and trees, the hills and plains, the rivers and the otter. They are all still there, not just like they were in our evolutionary formative times perhaps, but there just the same if we can only remember.

The otter is a good guide back for us humans. She is social and a traveler, plays and works hard just like us. If we are lucky enough to get out in the winter we can read her blog along the brooks and remember ourselves as human animals.

Here she came snuffling along a partially open brook, leaving muddy footprints whenever she walked on the snow. Here she had crayfish for lunch and here a huge trout from a tame pond where the fish were fed all summer by a man who loved to see them churn the surface once a day. Here she traveled in a long-bodied lope, and here gave it all up for tobogganing. She does this all year round, on leaves or grass or a clay brook bank. But in the snow it is easiest for us to read. Picture her taking a running start, then folding her front legs down by her sides, with hind legs and long tail trailing. She sails along the wind-packed snow on her thick belly fur and she can do it on the flat, down a slope, or even upgrade fairly steeply.

What inspires her to this sort of travel? Who knows and who cares. She just gets the wild urge, same as we do sometimes to skip a little or run instead of chugging along in our pedestrian way. We are not so different: love our babies, play with them; get with friends, chat and snuffle. Take off on our own sometimes for new territories and places to forage for what we like best. Loving the family, loving our independence, too.

Thoreau gives us intersection with or introduction to the otter: " [She] travels a more wooded path, by water-courses and hedgerows—I by the highway – but though [her] tracks are now crosswise to mine, our courses are not divergent, but we shall meet at last."

Like to meet an otter? Look around a brook course for five toes in a muddy track larger than a housecat's. Look for *joie de vivre*!

— Bonner J. McAllester

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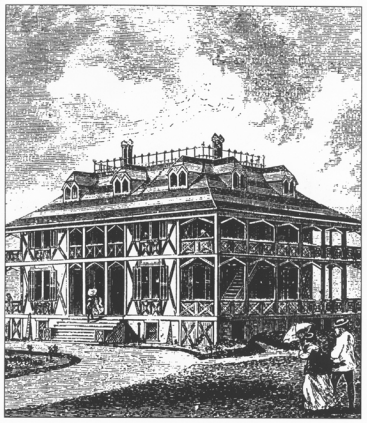

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Hunger Moon

The scientific name of coyote (*Canis latrans*) means "barking dog" according to Ernest Thompson Seton's self-illustrated book called *Wild Animals At Home*. Today in Monterey the eastern coyote is twice the size of its western close relative, evidently, as indicated by positive DNA tests, from crossbreeding with the Canadian grey wolf. At this time of year, coyotes become very vocal, gathering others during their mating season with a number of distinct calls:

1. the yipping of yearlings;
2. adult barking to warn of threat;
3. longer howls to call packs together;
4. group yip howling when reunited.

A January full moon at the end of the month is sometimes called the thirteenth moon because it shines in the heavens during the beginning of February as well. The Algonquins called it the Moon Of Hard Times and the Abenakis further north called it the Hunger Moon. When it rises over the Berkshire Hills, if your are listening you are probably likely to hear the night song of coyotes.

The howling often shatters the cold stillness of a winter sky and is an audible salute to the primordial connection between Earth's living creatures and the planets in the heavens. However don't panic, because there are absolutely no recorded incidents of coyotes presenting a threat to human beings. They are classified as generalists, eating whatever food is abundant, such as mice, squirrels, rabbits, carrion, amphibians, garbage, insects, and fruit. They are generally considered favorable to farmers because they eat so many rodents, which is why we see them after the hay fields have been mowed.

However coyotes have a wide range of predation, from five to twenty five miles, so watch your small pets, even in your own backyard, under the light of a Hunger Moon!

— George B. Emmons

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CHP Health Education Sessions

Community Health Programs (CHP) was recently selected by Central Massachusetts Area Health Education Center (AHEC) to participate in the Department of Public Health's (DPH) Community Education Project launched last July and continuing through 2010. Through this grant-funded project, CHP trained facilitators Ada Masiero and Shana Willis offer free education sessions to community members, with clinical assistance from Berkshire Health Systems (BHS) Nurse Case Managers Agnes Witkowski and Wayne Speyrer.

Facilitators follow a DPH-approved curriculum, which includes topics focused on prevention and early detection of cardiovascular disease, and breast, cervical, colorectal, and prostate cancer. Both Masiero and Willis are certified by DPH as Patient Navigators and are appropriately trained in risk reduction education and lifestyle intervention, and the health education sessions can be presented in both English and Spanish.

The educational sessions are scheduled to take place at both the CHP Neighborhood Health Center in Pittsfield, and at Fairview Hospital in Great Barrington. They are provided on flexible schedules to encourage increased participation and to enable working individuals to attend. (See session calendars below.)

This addition to CHP's existing outreach programs and health education services serves the agency's ongoing mission to provide accessible health care, education, and wellness services to residents of Berkshire County, regardless of insurance status, immigrant status, or ability to pay. This grant allows CHP to expand the scope of its health education services, and enhance literacy regarding cancer prevention among uninsured or underinsured residents of Berkshire County.

Health Education Sessions will be offered at Fairview Hospital, 29 Lewis Avenue, Great Barrington on the following Wednesdays from 4:30–6:30 p.m.:
January 6: Breast and Cervical Cancer
January 20: Cardiovascular Diseases
February 3: Prostate Cancer
February 24: Cardiovascular Diseases
March 17: Colorectal Cancer

Health Education Sessions will be offered at the CHP Neighborhood Health Center, 510 North Street, Pittsfield, on these Wednesdays from 5:30–7:30 p.m.:
January 13: Cardiovascular Diseases
January 27: Colorectal Cancer
February 3: Cardiovascular Diseases
February 17: Breast Cancer
March 3: Prostate Cancer
March 31: Cervical Cancer

Pre-registration is required as space is limited. Please call Ada Masiero 413-528-8600 ext. 5356 or Shana Willis 413-447-2379 to register.

Community Health Programs' mission is to provide quality health care and wellness services to people of all ages in southern and central Berkshire County regardless of their insurance status, immigrant status, or ability to pay.

CET Helps Towns Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Rural towns, businesses and individuals in western Massachusetts are eligible for help increasing recycling, composting, reducing and managing their waste through a $90,000 grant award to the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development.

This new funding will enable CET to help communities with fewer than 10,000 residents divert waste from landfills and combustion facilities through waste reduction, reuse, and recycling.

Businesses, schools, and other groups often struggle with how to safely dispose of items like spent fluorescent bulbs, outdated electronics, rechargeable batteries, and household hazardous waste. CET staff will work with schools, farms, and businesses to increase the amount of organic food waste being composted. CET will teach school children about the importance of reducing waste during the holidays and utilizing reused materials for gifts and wrapping paper. CET will assist schools with necessary recycling programs. In addition, CET waste management specialists will be available to conduct presentations or lead discussions on such topics as how to compost, how to reduce waste or how to use less toxic products at home and in the garden.

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When in Washington

When in Washington, don't worry about what Washingtonians do; simply be a tourist and appreciate the unique recipe. There is a healthy amount of history, which is then blended with current political tension and seasoned with equal quantities of idealism and pessimism. If you spend enough time there, your taste buds may detect all the subtleties that are offered. This is a wonderful substitute for those boring (cough, cough) history books in school. Personally, I am a cross between a tourist and a resident; the city welcomes all types.

There is no way one can avoid the aroma of history. Begin by sampling some of those attractions, which of course include monuments. In nice weather, and with good walking shoes, set a brisk pace. A ride up into the Washington Monument will give you an idea of what the city looks like at any angle from way up high (although the Old Post Office Pavilion is supposed to offer similar views with a far shorter line). Keep in mind that the building ordinances in DC forbid any building from being taller tan the monument; father of our nation symbolism much? Soak it in.

Your choices from here are plentiful; straight ahead takes you by a long reflecting pool, toward the stately memorial of the man who urged remembrance of the hundreds of thousands who sacrificed so that "government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth." A left turn takes you around the Tidal Basin to a memorial whose tranquility can be mesmerizing; all men are created equal, Jefferson wrote, even if it is still only an admirable goal that we work toward today. Continuing around the basin through FDR's memorial (although you will be walking through it from end to beginning in this direction) is a reminder of a time that some of our parents and grandparents still remember, the harsh years of the Depression and the efforts of an administration to put Americans to work and provide for citizens who had too little. Then in the late 1930s came the outbreak of the bloodiest conflict in history, and the subsequent attack on our country unrivaled until September 11, 2001. Is the only thing we have to fear, fear itself?

Take a moment to pass through the Korean War Memorial, simply cross the highway at the signal and take a left—eventually the path will take you alongside a group of men charging up a hill and a wall of faces that appear and vanish depending on the angle. Is it a forgotten war; do we really know much about those fading faces? Now, if you didn't first pass by Lincoln, also known as the Great Emancipator, you should; he sits looking out over all of Washington. It was from this city that he commanded an army, fighting a war to unite a country that was split in two. When reflecting on current political divides today, thankfully we still have not reached that point (here I resist the urge to call out certain U.S. Senators). To his left is a stark reminder, white names on black marble, of all those lost to a war that again devastated a generation and reinforced our inherent dislike of government. You can feel a wave of sadness emanating from this wall unlike all other memorials in the city. The mourners gathered there seem as though they are grieving for more than just loved ones—yet it is this intangible that is so powerful.

The academic side of our history can be found in numerous collections in museums around the city, but they all blend seamlessly into a bigger picture of

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living color. The National Achieves is an incredible place, not just because it contains one of the four original copies of the Magna Carta (written in 1215) and the original Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights, but also because it has the most complete record of our entire history. The statistics of what the archives contain cannot be presented here—you simply need to read about it to believe it. The International Spy Museum may leave you paranoid for life, yet it is an amazing eye into the true nature of the Cold War and our forty-year standoff with the Soviet Union. Plus the technology is just absolutely ridiculous, and to watch the evolution of stealth intrusion is fascinating. The history of flight and space travel can be found at the National Air and Space Museum.

I'd also strongly recommend a visit to the Smithsonian Museum of American History, with its own incredible exhibits. There is a special exhibition for the flag and its history; and one on the presidency, a worthy stop for anyone who finds their political pressure cooker fluctuating with each presidential administration or decision. There is also a very comprehensive journey through each and every war we've fought as a country. Which were victories, defeats, necessary, or just blind arrogance? You can draw your own conclusions of course —but it makes you consider each venture in the larger context of history.

Just before the onset of winter, Stephen Rose captured these images of local wildlife: a painted turtle enjoys the sun on a log on Lake Buel, and a red squirrel prepares for the cold months ahead.

Each of these museums is like a narrow lens into the same historical events; history is reinforced, there is a lens for everyone, and it is difficult to be bored. For art lovers, there is the National Gallery of Art; be sure to check out the modern wing and the Hirshorn, which also has an outside garden of art.

Finally, idealism and pessimism can be found in all these collections and stories. If you want a little current political tension, as an addendum on your historical ventures, then go up to Capitol Hill. You can contact your representative's office a month in advance for tour reservations, and see if you can get some seats to the gallery to watch while the chambers are in session. You can also ask about the White House tour, although those are harder to get. If you eat in the Senate Cafeteria, you may overhear something, or you can go to Cups in the basement of the Russell Building—their cheese steak sandwich is delicious.

Every time I walk DC, it is a truly educational experience. The threads of my historical knowledge become more organized as I amble through history. I have a healthy amount of patriotic pride, but walking these streets and reading about our history helps bring home how unique our experiment really was. If you're ever feeling disillusioned with our current direction, take a walk down "memory lane," and with any luck you will come away feeling a bit inspired and a little idealistic. I hope everyone had a blessed holiday season and my best wishes for a wonderful new year.

— Tarsi Dunlop

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"Weirdo"

My office receptionist stood at the window, focusing on a bank of roiling storm clouds in the winter morning sky.

"Uh-oh," she fretted, "that looks nasty. D'ya think we should cancel office hours?"

"Hmm … I don't know. How's the schedule today?"

"Packed."

I contemplated the cloud formation as if I knew what I was doing. "Why don't we wait a while. Maybe it'll blow over."

The first flakes fell at 9:15 and within an hour the city was paralyzed. So much for my forecasting career.

After seeing the few hardy patients who showed up that morning, we rescheduled the rest of the day's appointments and dismissed the staff. I was preparing to leave as well, already picturing myself at home, cozied up with a good book and a crackling fire. But fate had other plans. Thirty minutes later, just as I was finishing a stack of phone messages, my pager announced that one of my patients had arrived at the hospital in active labor.

From my third floor perch I looked down at a scene of blinding white gridlock. With the exception of one hapless pedestrian, nothing was moving. My chances of getting to the hospital in time, or even getting there at all, were slim at best. Fortunately, two of the staff doctors were on the maternity floor and volunteered to remain until the roads cleared. Even so, I wanted to be there for this patient's delivery. She had been exceptionally loyal, one of the first to follow me when I left my original group practice to go solo, so I didn't want to disappoint her.

It occurred to me to call the police and ask if they could help. I was connected to a dispatcher who located an officer within a block of my office building. Still holding the phone, I looked to the south and saw the cruiser sitting in traffic. If I could get there, the dispatcher said, the emergency flashers could be used to escort me to the hospital.

When I reached the police car the officer looked me up and down, taking in my skimpy trench coat and noting that I had no hat or gloves, and that my teeth were chattering.

"Does your mother know you're dressed like that in this kind of weather?"

"What can I tell you," I said. "I flunked out of the Boy Scouts."

"That's okay, Doc," he laughed. "Which hospital?"

"Maternity," I said. "I have a patient in labor over there."

"You got it. Here we go." He flipped a switch on his dashboard and the blue emergency lights on his roof began to flash. The car in front of us responded by pulling to the side, but to little avail. With the buildup of snow there wasn't room for us to pass. Eventually traffic began to creep forward and we made a bit of headway, but the next car posed the same problem. After ten minutes we had covered less than two blocks, a distance I could have walked in a fraction of the time. The officer turned up his palms.

"Sorry, Doc. Best I can do."

I thanked him, got out of the car, and weighed my options. I could walk back to my office, but it was anyone's guess how long it would take for the roads to clear. There was a hotel just a few steps away. Same problem. Finally I made a decision. I would start walking toward the hospital, flagging down any vehicle in motion.

This plan actually worked … for a while. I would hitch a ride for a hundred yards or so until traffic stopped, then get out and resume walking until I found the next open space and willing driver. Eventually I reached the halfway point, an intersection where every vehicle was turning left or right onto a main road. In front of me was an open stretch of snow-covered side street with only the slightest hint of tire tracks. If I could catch a ride here, the remaining distance could be

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covered easily. But if no vehicles should happen along, I was facing a half-mile trudge of bone-chilling misery.

I put my head down and soldiered on. The snow was even deeper here, pulling at my waterlogged shoes with every step. Gusts of biting headwind forced me to stop frequently and turn my back. In addition to enemies of weather and time, I was now fighting despair. My thoughts turned negative. Why hadn't I waited out the storm in my warm office? Here I was, in the midst of a cruel Nor'easter without a soul in sight. Soon I would succumb to the elements, frozen solid under a bank of ice and snow. And me so young! What a tragic decision.

Then I heard something.

A pickup truck! *I was saved …* until I took a better look.

This thing was a rattletrap. It looked like someone had raided an auto graveyard and slapped a bunch of stray parts onto a rusting frame. The wheels were lopsided, with rusting bolts. The front fender flapped against the tire. A piece of wet cardboard covered the passenger door window. Only one windshield wiper was working, fortunately on the driver's side. And the motor sounded like a cement mixer.

But this pathetic wreck was my only choice. I flagged it down, looking forward to getting out of the cold, but when the driver pushed the door open the stench of body odor nearly bowled me over. His shoulder length hair and ratty beard were matted with grime. There was a half-empty bottle of gin stuffed between the seats. His eyes were bloodshot. And he wore a sneer, revealing his few remaining teeth.

Nevertheless, I still needed to get to the hospital. "Desperate times, desperate measures," I thought. "Please God, don't let this guy rape me."

I was about to ask permission to climb in, but before I had a chance to speak he looked at me suspiciously and took me by surprise. *"You ain't one o' them weirdos, are ya?"*

For a moment I was speechless, but neither the stench nor the storm could diminish the hilarious irony of that moment. "Don't worry, I laughed, "I just need to get to the hospital down the street."

"Okay," he said, narrowing his eyes, "just down the street and you'll be getting out at the hospital, right?"

"Right, I reassured him. "I'll be getting out there."

As I settled into the tattered seat he continued to pepper me. "Cause I can't take you no farther than that. Just as far as the hospital, and that's all. No farther than the hospital," he repeated.

"All right," I said, trying not to sound testy. "That's all I'm asking."

"Just down to the end of this street," he repeated, "and that's it."

"What's your problem!" I snapped. "I'm just trying to get to the hospital, for chrissake!"

"No, no problem," he relented, looking worried. "Jus' wanted to make sure you unnerstood."

"All right, then." I jerked my head in the direction of the hospital. "It's just down the street."

He revved up the coughing engine and wrestled it into gear, but while driving he repeatedly stole furtive glances in my direction. What was with this guy? *He* was scared of *me*? He had to be some kind of paranoid, or maybe just wasted on gin. Whatever the reason, I continued to feel his eyes on me, even when we had stopped and I was exiting. It was a relief to get out of that stinking truck, but before I closed the door I felt obligated to thank him. He answered in the kind of singsong tone one would use to patronize a deranged oddball.

"That's okay, buddy," he said, still looking at me strangely. "You take care of yourself now. Get yourself inside and stay out of this weather."

"What a character," I thought. "It takes all kinds."

I walked the short distance through the physician's parking lot, reached the door and removed my coat to shake off the snow. As soon as I stepped inside, I stopped in the men's room to freshen up. But when I looked in the mirror, my jaw dropped. Looking back at me was a frostbitten vagrant with icicles hanging from his nose and chin, and at least eight inches of snow piled on top of his uncovered head. No wonder that poor shnook in the truck was so worried. I looked like a lunatic!

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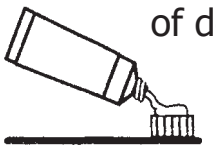
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After cleaning up and changing into a scrub suit I went straight to my patient's room. Any doubts I had about my harrowing trip to the hospital instantly dissolved when I saw the look of relief on her face. "I can't believe you made it!" she gushed. "I heard nothing's moving out there." When I told her the "weirdo" story she managed to laugh heartily between contractions.

Fortunately, the delivery went well. As I was leaving her with her baby daughter in her arms, she said, "You know, I really appreciate that you took the trouble to get here. In fact, it's possible that my baby might get named after you someday."

She was smirking, so I sensed a joke at my expense. I complied by playing the straight man.

"That's so nice of you," I said, "but what do you mean? You had a girl, so how could you name her after me?"

"Well," she said, now laughing openly, "to tell you the truth, her name's going to be Betsy. But if she's anything like her brother and sister, I'm sure one day she's going to go out and play in the snow without a hat and mittens. And when she does, I'm going to tell her the story about the doctor who delivered her, and that if she doesn't dress more carefully, people are going to think she's a weirdo too!"

— David Shifrin

David Shifrin's new book, Ob-Gyn Confessions: Intimate Stories From a Woman's Doctor*, is now available from the publisher, www.smalldogma.com. It should be available on amazon.com soon.*

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Bartholomew's Cobble January Events

Writing the Winter Landscape
Sun., Jan. 3, Feb. 7, Mar.7, 1–3 p.m.

Join local author Pauline Clarke and Trustees of Reservations educator Tammis Coffin to walk the winter landscape at Bartholomew's Cobble, exploring seasonal changes with journaling and poetry. Free with admission of $5 per adult. Please pre-register to tcoffin@ttor.org.

Winter Discovery Hikes
Sat., Jan. 9, Jan 23, Feb 20, 10 a.m.

Bartholomew's Cobble is beautiful in the winter. Hike along the Housatonic River, through the woods, or across the fields with Trustees of Reservations guide Rene Wendell, exploring signs of winter birds and wildlife. Snowshoes available in children and adult sizes. Free with admission of $5 per adult and $1 per child. Please pre-register to 413-229-8600.

Wednesday Wellness Walks
Wednesdays, 8:30–9:30 a.m.

A mix of meditative walking and social time led by Trustees of Reservations volunteers Margo and Lawrence Davis-Hollander. Free. Bring snowshoes, skis. or ice cleats. Learn more at www.coachingvision.info.

Contributors

We thank the following folks for their recent contributions. Your support makes it possible for us to continue publishing.

Glenn M. Heller
Stu & Phyllis Trott
Marie Bidwell Leuchs
Judith Friedman
John Schmerler
Herbert Coyne
Susan Popper &Rocky Greenberg

Winter Speaker Series:
What's Going on With Bats?
Tues., Jan. 12, 6–7 p.m.

Trustees of Reservations host speaker Andrew Madden from Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife will share the latest research about bats and white nose syndrome, and answer questions. Free. Donations welcome. Pre-registration encouraged to 413-229-8600.

Bartholomew's Cobble is located on Weatogue Road in Sheffield. New this winter are snowshoe rentals. The trails are open daily sunrise to sunset and the Visitor Center is open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Tues.–Sat. Call 229-8600, email bcobble@ttor.org, or visit www.thetrustees.org.

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Calendar

Every Monday (exc. Jan. 18): Select Board meeting, 4 p.m., Town Hall.

Every Saturday in winter: Youth ice hockey at Monterey rink, 8–10 a.m. See p. 4.

Monday, January 4: Adult Reading Group, Monterey Library, 7 p.m. See p. 7.

Wednesdays, January 6, 20; February 3, 24: CHP Health Education Sessions, 4:30–6:30 p.m., Fairview Hospital. See p. 17.

Saturdays, January 9, 23: Winter Discovery Hikes, 10 a.m. Bartholomew's Cobble, Sheffield. See p. 22.

Tuesday, January 12: "What's Going on with Bats?" Talk by Andrew Madden of Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Bartholomew's Cobble, Sheffield, 6 p.m. See p. 22.

Thursday, January 14: Free Blood Pressure Clinic, Town Hall Meeting Room, 2–3 p.m.

Friday, January 15: Brush burning season opens. See p. 6.

Saturday, January 16:

The Visitor, free movie, 7 p.m., Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. See p. 9.

Moxie, the Reading Dog, at Monterey Library, 10 a.m. See p. 7.

Tuesday, January 19: Free Health Screening, Community Health Program, 10 a.m.–noon, Town Hall.

Wednesday, January 20: Community Potluck Dinner, 6 p.m., Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Presentation by Michael Banner on silvesmithing. See p. 7.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be left in the drop box on the loading dock of the General Store. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or e-mail montereynews9@gmail.com.

Monday, January 18: Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. Town Hall, Library closed.

Saturday, January 23: Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Dewey Hall, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel. Caller Joe Baker. All dances are taught; beginners and children are welcome. Adults $8–10, children $5. Information 528-9385.

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The Observer
November 26–December 25

High temp. (12/3)	60°
Low temp. (12/18)	1°
Avg. high temp.	36.9°
Avg. low temp.	21.1°
Avg. temp.	29°
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	5.15 in.
Snowfall	19.5 in.

Precipitation occurred on 22 days.

New Email Address for *Monterey News*

Please note the new email address for the *News*: montereynews9@gmail.com. Readers and those submitting material to the editior should also note that the web site www.,montereynews.org is not our site and has nothing to do with us. It was registered and is being used by someone with no connection to this paper.

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Contributions from visiting and local artists this month: David Paul Bacharach, pp. 13, 22; Joe Baker, p. 15; Maureen Banner, p. 23; George Emmons, p. 16.

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